

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06
OES-06 SSC-01 /078 W
-----291252Z 019584 /43

R 290850Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0524
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0782

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EWWT, EG
SUBJECT: NEW DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0658, 0314 AND 0102

1. CABINET RESHUFFLE FOLLOWING FALL PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND PRESIDENT SADAT'S RE-ELECTION INCLUDED NOT ONLY PREDICTED OUSTER OF MINISTER OF MAO TIME TRANSPORT MAHMOUD ABDEL RAHMAN FAHMY (ALEX 0658), BUT ALSO MERGING OF THAT MINISTRY WITH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS UNDER ABDEL FATTAH ABDULLAH. WE NOW LEARN THAT YEHIA RAMADAN HAS BEEN NAMED TO NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT TO OVERSEE WORK OF ALEXANDRIA-BASED FORMER MINISTRY.
2. RAMADAN HAD BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT'S ORGANIZATION FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT (MARTRANS), CREATED WHEN ALL PRIVATE SHIPPING COMPANIES WERE NATIONALIZED. HIS ELEVATION TO DEPUTY MINISTER WAS OVER HEADS OF AT LEAST THREE CURRENT UNDER SECRETARIES, THE SENIOR OF WHOM, ADMIRAL MAHMOUD SAMMAK, ASSURED CONGEN DAY OR TWO AFTER MERGER THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD NOW BE IN CHARGE OF MARITIME TRANSPORT.

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3. INITIAL REACTION IN LOCAL SHIPPING CIRCLES TO RAMADAN'S PROMOTION IS POSITIVE. THIS DUE IN PART TO RELIEF AT FAHMY'S DEPARTURE, BUT EGGSN MORE TO PLEASURE OF SEEING EXPERIENCED SHIPPING EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE INSTEAD OF ANOTHER RETIRED ADMIRAL. IT IS HOPED THAT RAMADAN, WHO HAD BEEN CHAIRMAN OF EGYPTIAN NAVIGATION COMPANY (COUNTRY'S LARGEST) PRIOR TO NATIONALIZATION,

WILL URGE GOE ACTION ON REOPENING SHIPPING TRADE TO PRIVATE
SECTOR AS RECOMMENDED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY NATIONAL PRODUCTION
COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (ALEX 0102).
FAHMY AND SAMMAK WERE IN OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO ANY RPT ANY
SHARING WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (VIZ. COURT FIGHT AGAINST
MAHMOUD ISMAIL AND HIS ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANT,
AND SAMMAK'S MIDDLE EAST OBSERVER INTERVIEW, ALEX 0314).
VALERGA

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